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EAST TIMOR

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION

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Amnesty International presented its concerns about human rights in East Timor before the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization on 9 August 1990. Amnesty International takes no position on the question of East Timor's political status. It presented its concerns before the Committee in the belief that the discussion on East Timor should be informed by an understanding of the human rights situation in the territory.

In its statement to this Committee last year Amnesty International welcomed the "opening" of East Timor to tourism and commerce in January 1989 but cautioned that this would not necessarily mean an end to human rights violations in the territory. Over the past two years Amnesty International has documented the emergence of a pattern of short-term detention, ill-treatment and torture of alleged political opponents of Indonesian rule in East Timor. It has continued to receive credible reports of extrajudicial executions, "disappearances" and the systematic use of torture against political detainees by members of the security forces. It remains concerned about hundreds of unresolved cases of "disappearance" and the continued imprisonment of at least 11 alleged supporters of Fretilin sentenced in trials which Amnesty International believes were not fair. In spite of repeated requests to the Indonesian authorities, Amnesty International has not yet been able to visit East Timor to investigate reports of human rights violations.

This summarizes a 10-page document, East Timor: Amnesty International Statement to the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization, AI Index: ASA 21/09/90), issued by Amnesty International in August 1990. Anyone wanting further details or to take action on this issue should consult the full document.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM

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Amnesty International
International Secretariat
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 8DJ
United Kingdom

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EAST TIMOR

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION

Introduction

Thank you Mr Chairman for the opportunity to address this Committee and to present to it Amnesty International's concerns about human rights in East Timor. Amnesty International does not take a position on the question of East Timor's political status. As in past years, we are presenting our concerns here because we believe that the discussion of the political future of East Timor should be informed by an understanding of the human rights situation in the territory.

In its statement to this Committee last year Amnesty International welcomed the "opening" of East Timor to tourism and commerce in January 1989 but cautioned that this would not necessarily mean an end to human rights violations in the territory. Over the past two years Amnesty International has documented the emergence of a pattern of short-term detention, ill-treatment and torture of alleged political opponents of Indonesian rule in East Timor. We have continued to receive credible reports of extrajudicial executions, "disappearances" and the systematic use of torture against political detainees by members of the Indonesian security forces. We remain concerned about hundreds of unresolved cases of "disappearance" and the continued imprisonment of at least 11 alleged supporters of the Frente Revolucionaria de Timor Leste (Fretilin), sentenced in trials which Amnesty International believes were not fair. Finally, in spite of repeated requests to the Indonesian authorities, Amnesty International has not yet been able to visit East Timor.

Some foreign visitors have been able to travel with relative freedom in certain parts of the territory and this has been a welcome change. Yet very serious limitations on the accurate reporting of human rights violations remain. First, many violations are by definition "invisible"; incommunicado detention, torture, ill-treatment, and "disappearance" may not be readily detected or easily documented either by casual tourists or visiting foreign dignitaries. Second, postal and telephone communications continue to be monitored and most foreign visitors, tourists included, are subjected to surveillance by military intelligence. Third, and perhaps most importantly, no mechanism yet exists within East Timor for the systematic reporting of human rights violations. There is a pervasive fear that those who report such violations will themselves become victims: Amnesty International believes that there are good grounds to believe that this fear is justified.

Short Term Detention, Torture and Ill-treatment

Mr Chairman, in its statement before this Committee last year, Amnesty International said that it had learned the names of some 200 people who had been detained in a series of mass arrests between October 1988 and July 1989, dozens of whom had reportedly been tortured or ill-treated in police or military custody. This pattern of short-term detention, torture and ill-treatment has continued in the past year. Dozens of suspected government opponents and advocates of human rights, many of them young people and students, have been detained for their alleged participation in a series of apparently peaceful pro-independence demonstrations which began in October 1989 during the visit of Pope John Paul II. Most recently, several people were reportedly detained after high-school students raised the Fretilin flag at schools in Becora and Camea outside of Dili, on 17 July 1990.

In Amnesty International's view, the pattern observed has all the hallmarks of a systematic strategy to silence real or suspected political opponents of the government and to obtain political intelligence through coercion and intimidation. Suspects are typically held incommunicado in police or military detention centres or unofficial safehouses for periods ranging between a few hours and several weeks, and subjected to physical and psychological abuse before being released without charge. It is in these unofficial detention centres, which are not seen by visiting foreign journalists or parliamentary delegations, that detainees are most likely to be subjected to torture or ill-treatment. As a condition for release, many detainees are required to cooperate in the gathering of military intelligence and to report regularly to military authorities. Many are warned not to speak of their treatment in custody to humanitarian organizations, church leaders or foreigners. Even after they have been released, suspected political opponents live in fear that they may be detained at any time and on the slightest pretext.

[**Filomeno Paixao de Jesus** and **Hermenegildo de Conceicao**, both detained in May 1989, were among the scores of people detained and reportedly interrogated prior to the visit of the Pope. Filomeno Paixao de Jesus was reportedly stripped naked and tortured with electric shocks to his genitals and anus while being questioned about the plans of the underground movement for the visit. Hermenegildo de Conceicao witnessed the torture; both were released after questioning. In June 1990, Hemenegildo de Conceicao was detained again and taken to a military arsenal in Dili, the Gudang Municipia, where he was reportedly beaten and kicked by a group of about twenty soldiers who accused him of being a supporter of the resistance. His hair was shaved and one of his ears was reportedly slashed with a knife. He was released without charge.]

An estimated 20 East Timorese, most of them students, were detained for their alleged part in a pro-independence demonstration during the Pope's visit in October 1989. Most were reportedly held briefly in an unofficial detention centre in the Vila Verde quarter of Dili, where they were said to have been beaten, given electric shocks and deprived of food. A few days later, Bishop Belo, the Apostolic Administrator of Dili, reportedly confirmed the allegations that security forces had used torture. He is reported to have said: "I am shocked that the Indonesian military is extracting false confessions under torture. The boys were trying to express their discontent with the situation in East Timor. It is a lie that the Church was in any way involved in the demonstration." Although Indonesian officials initially denied that any arrests had been made, Amnesty International confirmed that at least three detainees remained in custody at the end of October 1989, three weeks after they had been detained.

[The following account of harassment of alleged pro-independence demonstrators comes from a letter dated 6 November 1989 and signed by 23 people who sought refuge at the residence of Bishop Belo in the aftermath of the October demonstration. Several of the 33 people who had been expected to sign the letter were unable to do so because they had been detained by the police on the previous day. "We are a group of East Timorese youth who are being tracked down by the military authorities who wish to detain us. For the time being we are at the Bishop's residence in Lecidere [in Dili]. A few among us have already been detained and nothing is known of their fate... All of this has happened to us because we do not agree with the violation of human rights in East Timor, and the inhumane way in which we have been treated. After the demonstration in Taci-Tolu on 12 October 1989, we have been followed and detained. Our lives have been threatened. We have been forced to abandon our day-to-day activities, either as employees or as students."]*

[More young people were detained and reportedly ill-treated in November 1989 following two incidents involving security forces and students in Dili. On 5 November, at least six were detained. Among them were **Antanasio** (17), **Antonio Castro** (20), and **Jose Minas** (19). They were reportedly held at Nusra Bakti, a military-backed business used as a detention centre, where they were said to have been beaten with heavy wooden branches while under interrogation. Two other students, **Jose Manuel Fernandes** (20) and **Donaciano Gomes** (21), who were believed to be among those involved in the 12 October demonstration, were detained at the Wisma Senopati II, a military guest house also used as a detention centre. Both were reportedly tortured with electric shocks after being doused with cold water. None were known to have been charged with acts of violence. Some of those detained were reportedly held for three months and three were feared to have "disappeared".]

[On 14 November, fully armed units of the Indonesian army surrounded and attempted to enter the premises of the Externato San Jose, a Catholic High School in Dili alleged by military intelligence to be a centre of underground activity and sympathy for those opposing Indonesian rule. When the soldiers entered the building they found one student, **Manuel Mausiri**, hiding in the toilet. He was reportedly beaten until he lost consciousness. At least two students, **Anatalino Beltrao** and **Pedro da Costa**, and possibly as many as eight, were detained the following day. Pedro da Costa was reportedly beaten while under questioning, and several other detainees reportedly remained in custody in December.]

Several people were seriously injured on 17 January 1990 when Indonesian security forces dispersed a peaceful pro-independence demonstration at the Hotel Turismo in Dili. Dozens were said to have been detained after further demonstrations on 18 and 19 January. The dispersal came after demonstrators had spoken for about an hour with visiting United States Ambassador, John Monjo, appealing for his government's intervention on behalf of East Timor's independence and for the protection of human rights there. [Three people were taken to hospital; two of them remained in hospital for several weeks reportedly suffering from serious head injuries

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*[Note: Parts of the text enclosed in square brackets [] were not included in the oral presentation before the UN Special Committee on Decolonization.]

and mental trauma. Several other people who received minor injuries were treated at the residence of the Bishop, where they sought refuge.] On hearing that the actions of the security forces had resulted in injuries, a U.S. Embassy spokesperson said: "We sincerely regret this... In view of the peaceful nature of the demonstration the Ambassador [had] asked that no one be arrested or detained."

[The students reportedly called for United Nations intervention on the political future of East Timor and outlined human rights violations in the territory. As they spoke, government officials reportedly moved through the crowd noting names and taking photographs and making video recordings of both demonstrators and bystanders. An eyewitness said that as Ambassador Monjo prepared to leave, the students asked him to guarantee their safety because the hotel was by that time completely surrounded by soldiers and police in riot gear. One eyewitness said that as soon as the Ambassador left "...riot police and soldiers charged into the demonstrators, beating them with batons and rifle butts." Some, he said, managed to escape but about 40 "were clubbed and beaten into a human pile against the hotel's iron fence." A second eyewitness said: "There were shoes scattered all over the road as well as blood... The students in the mound protected their heads from being beaten with their arms... I saw a body which appeared very limp being thrown on the back of a truck."]

Once again, the Indonesian government denied that there had been arrests, but Amnesty International learned that at least five of those detained after the January demonstrations remained in custody in February 1990. They were **Jose Manuel Fernandes, Donaciano da Costa Gomes, Francisco Maria de Sousa, Clementino Faria** and **Anatalino Beltrao da Costa**, all of whom had been previously arrested in October and/or November. Donaciano da Costa Gomes claimed to have been ill-treated in custody and reported that other detainees had been tortured with electric shocks, immersed for long periods in foetid water, kicked and punched, slashed with knives and hung from the ceiling. Between January and March of this year, the International Committee of the Red Cross is reported to have visited 54 political detainees in five different detention centres in East Timor. A number of these were undoubtedly people arrested in connection with the demonstrations of October 1989 to January 1990.

[East Timorese students living in Indonesia, especially those who have been politically active, have also been detained and ill-treated by police and military authorities. On 26 April, **Mario Trindade** (22), **Felizberto Mascarenhas** (23) and **Fernao Trindade** (17), all East Timorese students living in Bali, were arrested and badly beaten by police and military authorities following a fight in which a man was seriously injured; they were released five days later without charge. According to reports they were held first at the main police station in Denpasar, then at the headquarters of the Military Police and finally at the District Military Command (KODIM). Friends who saw them in their cells said that their faces were covered with bruises; at least one of them, Fernao Trindade, was bleeding from the nose and mouth and had difficulty standing, apparently as a result of being beaten in custody. Fellow students who tried to intervene with the authorities on behalf of the three were reportedly threatened with death by a military officer from the District Military Command (KODIM). The officer is reported to have said: "I served as a soldier of the Indonesian Army in Viqueque [East Timor]. At any moment I was ready to take the order to kill. If you continue carrying on like this, the Viqueque part of me will come out again and the moment that happens, I will gladly give the order to kill each and every one of you...And if I cannot do it alone, I

will order the people of Denpasar to strip you naked and cut you down like stalks of grass."]

Mr Chairman, Amnesty International has evidence which directly contradicts the assertion by Indonesian government and military authorities that they have not arrested demonstrators over the past year. It may be true, strictly speaking, that most of those detained by the security forces have not been formally arrested and appear not to have been charged with a recognizable criminal offence, but they have been held in arbitrary, unacknowledged detention. The explanation provided by the authorities that certain people reported to have been detained had only been "asked for information", obscures the essential issue. Whatever the terminology used, those held for interrogation in jails and detention centres are prisoners and Amnesty International believes that many of them may be or have been prisoners of conscience. Their imprisonment, however brief, and their torture or ill-treatment are matters giving rise to serious concern.

Torture

The torture and ill-treatment of alleged political opponents held in military detention centres has been a consistent feature of Indonesian rule in East Timor. The testimony of recently released political prisoners, arrested between 1977 and 1983, provides fresh evidence of the systematic use of torture in extracting information in military custody. **Eduardo da Costa**, who was taken to Bali for interrogation in 1983, testified that he and other detainees were stripped naked for interrogation; men were beaten across the back with an iron pipe and received electrical shocks to their genitals. Eduardo da Costa said he was tortured again at the District Military Command (KODIM) in Dili before being tried and sentenced to seven years in jail in 1984.

[Another informant, **Agapito da Silva**, was arrested for the first time in September 1977 by members of the 401st Battalion. He was taken to an Army post at Likisa where he was kicked and punched while being interrogated together with three others for several days. He was subsequently released but in June 1980 he was arrested again, along with seven others -- including three women -- on suspicion of having links with Fretilin. All eight were interrogated first at the District Military Command (KODIM) in Dili, then transferred to the KOREM where they were tortured repeatedly over a period of several weeks. According to Agapito da Silva they were kicked, punched and nearly drowned by their interrogators. Both men and women were forced to undress during interrogation; their genitals were burned with lighted cigarettes or given electric shocks. The women were sexually harassed by soldiers in their cells.]

Amnesty International continues to receive numerous reports of the ill-treatment and torture of suspected rebel sympathizers in the countryside. According to one report, five men from the villages of Eukissi and Ili Lai in Lospalos district were beaten publicly by members of the 511th Battalion at about midnight on 12 April 1990. An eyewitness said that the men -- named **Tito dos Santos, Bou Reci, Rui, Jaime** and **Ano Dai** -- were kicked and beaten on the head, chest and genitals. The incident was reported to both military and civilian authorities at the village and the district level, but we are not aware of any disciplinary action having been taken against the alleged perpetrators. [In 1989 a missionary working in Venilale made the following observation about people in the area: "They are afraid of interrogations, torture and electric shocks. At first I said 'You

don't have to be afraid if you have done nothing wrong.' But there I was profoundly mistaken. Children really have to be afraid of losing their parents".]

Unfair Trials and Political Prisoners

In previous statements to this Committee, Amnesty International has expressed serious doubts about the fairness of political trials in East Timor. Although the Indonesian government has not allowed qualified international observers to attend such trials, Amnesty International has heard the testimonies of recently released political prisoners, tried in 1984, and has obtained trial documents which substantially confirm the conclusion that, by international standards, these trials were not fair. The evidence suggests that political trials in East Timor are deficient in some or all of the following respects: testimonies of both defendants and witnesses are often extracted under duress, sometimes under torture; prosecution witnesses are seldom cross-examined and there are few if any witnesses for the defence; trials are conducted in a language which is not always well-understood by the defendants or the witnesses; the possibility of appeal provided for in the code of criminal procedure is not actively pursued by state-appointed defence lawyers.

[**Agapito da Silva** was tried together with several others in August 1984. All were reportedly accused under Article 110 of the Indonesian criminal code of conspiring to commit crimes against the state. They were found guilty in a trial which lasted three days and which was conducted entirely in Indonesian, a language which most defendants understood imperfectly if at all. Agapito da Silva was sentenced to six years in prison; the four years he had spent in custody without trial were not deducted from his sentence. According to Agapito da Silva, the only prosecution witnesses to testify at his trial were two of his co-accused who had both been in custody for more than four years and who had reportedly been tortured during interrogation. These witnesses, he said, were given instructions beforehand by the prosecutor which they simply carried out during the trial. Defendants were asked to sign statements which amounted to confessions and were told that if they did not sign they would not receive a trial at all. Prosecution witnesses were not cross-examined and there were reportedly no witnesses for the defence.]

[**Eduardo da Costa** was tried together with several others in March 1984. All were found guilty in a trial which lasted seven days; Eduardo da Costa was sentenced to seven years in jail. He alleges that he was given no opportunity to speak in his own defence during the trial. He also claims that before his trial he was interrogated and tortured by two different military authorities; in Bali, where he was sent in August 1983 shortly after his arrest, and at the KODIM in Dili shortly before the trial. Like Agapito da Silva, he says that the only witnesses in the court were other defendants, many of whom had been tortured in military custody. According to Eduardo da Costa, some of the defendants had angered the authorities by asking to be tried according to principles of international law, not Indonesian law. They were reportedly taken from the court room and kept in an isolation cell until the trial was over and were then sent immediately to Cipinang prison. At least three of these -- **David Dias Ximenes, Albino Lourdes,** and **Mario (Marito) Nicolau dos Reis** -- are still in prison serving sentences of between 15 and 17 years.]

Amnesty International welcomes the release over the last year of at least 14 long-term political prisoners from East Timor who had been sentenced in trials which Amnesty International believes were unfair. According to our information these prisoners had served all but a few months of their sentences. With their release, Amnesty International believes that 11 East Timorese tried and convicted of supporting Fretilin now remain in acknowledged detention serving sentences of between four and 17 years. Six of the remaining sentenced prisoners are in Cipinang prison in Jakarta and five are in Dili's Bekora prison [see appendix]. [This figure does not include people recently detained for political reasons and held without charge or trial in the numerous detention centres in East Timor.]

[Amnesty International is concerned that East Timorese prisoners serving sentences in Jakarta are effectively denied regular access to family and friends. Last year we noted the case of **Albino Lourdes**, aged fifty and ill with a bladder condition, and appealed on humanitarian grounds for the transfer to Dili of all East Timorese prisoners. Albino Lourdes, now 51, remains in Cipinang prison where he is serving a 17-year sentence. If he serves his full sentence, he will not be not be released until shortly before the turn of the century.]

"Disappearances"

Amnesty International remains concerned by reports that people detained by Indonesian security forces in East Timor have subsequently "disappeared". We fear that many of the hundreds reported to have "disappeared" since December 1975 may have been killed. Of those more recently reported as disappeared, many have been found to have been in unacknowledged military or police detention.

Last year before this Committee, Amnesty International reported the possible "disappearance" of four East Timorese, and noted that they were probably in police or military custody. We have since confirmed that at least three of the four -- **Manuel Fatima Guterres, Elias Pereira Moniz** and **Herminio da Silva da Costa** -- were indeed in military custody. [Manuel Fatima Guterres "disappeared" after being taken from his home in Dili on 25 May 1989 by military officials; in August 1989, Amnesty International learned that he was in jail and might face charges for alleged involvement with the resistance. Elias Pereira Moniz, an East Timorese studying in Bali, "disappeared" after being arrested by military intelligence officers on 14 June 1989; it was later discovered that he had been in unacknowleged military custody in Denpasar for several days before being released without charge. Herminio da Silva da Costa, an employee at the office of the Governor, was reported missing after his arrest on 24 May 1989. Amnesty International later learned that he had been in military custody for several weeks, on suspicion of supporting the political opposition.]

The same may be true of several people reported to have disappeared in the last year. **Domingos Mario Neto Mok** was reportedly arrested by members of the military on 29 July 1989 and taken to an army post in Ossu. As of October 1989, his whereabouts were unknown and Amnesty International has received no further information since that date. Three students, **Alcino Ximenes, Nelson da Costa** and **Franco Mateus**, were feared to have "disappeared" after being detained by security forces in November 1989. According to one report, they were released from military custody in

early January and then rearrested after the January demonstrations. They were reportedly still missing at the end of February. [In January 1990, **Vicente Ximenes** was reportedly arrested by military officials. His wife enquired after his whereabouts at various military detention centres but failed to locate him. **Joselino Soares** (29), was reportedly detained by Indonesian security forces on 22 July 1990 when he disembarked at the wharf in Dili after arriving from Bali, where he had been studying. According to fellow students, his whereabouts remained unknown as of the end of July.]* We are concerned for their safety and as a matter of urgency request clarification from the government on the whereabouts of all people last seen in military or police custody.

Amnesty International notes the continuing efforts made by the Indonesian government to investigate cases of "disappearance" which have taken place in East Timor over the last 14 years. It is concerned, however, at the slow pace of such investigations and by indications that some of the information provided by the government may be incorrect. According to its January 1990 report, the United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances considered only six cases to have been clarified by government information provided in late 1988, and possibly one more case on the basis of information provided in 1989. [As of January of this year, only 22 of a total of 71 cases submitted to the government by the Working Group had been clarified by government information. Of this number, six individuals were found to be in detention and 16 others were reported to be alive but not in custody. It is important to remember that this figure represents only a fraction of the hundreds of East Timorese reportedly "disappeared" since 1975, but in circumstances still too unclear to permit the Working Group to make substantive inquiries to the government.]

In 1989, the government provided information on three cases, but in two of these -- the "disappearances" of **Maria Gorete Joaquim** in 1979 and of **Venanciano Gomes** in 1980 -- the government's information was at variance with information provided by unofficial sources. In a letter dated 10 July 1989, the Indonesian government said that Maria Gorete Joaquim was alive and residing in Dili. However, according to her relatives she was shot by security forces in a churchyard in the town of Quelicai near Baucau in May 1979 shortly after she "disappeared". The Indonesian government said in the same communication that Venanciano Gomes, who "disappeared" in June 1980, had died in an exchange of fire between security forces and Fretilin guerrillas. Relatives and witnesses, however, have said that he was arrested in June 1980 and tortured in military custody. In the same month witnesses saw him being taken by military helicopter to Remexiu, where he was reportedly found killed with a knife.

Extrajudicial Executions

At least 20 people, and possibly many more, were reportedly killed by Indonesian security forces in 1989 and early 1990 in apparent extrajudicial executions. Most of the victims of extrajudicial execution have been villagers living in areas of suspected rebel activity. In some instances, victims appear to have been tortured or ill-treated before being killed. Reports of extrajudicial execution in East Timor have always been difficult to verify but Amnesty International believes that the available evidence of the extrajudicial execution of suspected government opponents is strong.

[**Josefina Facundo** is alleged to have been bound, raped and killed by members of the 144th Battalion near Poros, Lautem, on 29 January 1989.

* [Note: According to the most recent reports from non-governmental sources, Joselino Soares was released after several days in the custody of Indonesian security forces]

Her mutilated body -- with breasts cut off and eyes poked out -- was reportedly dropped at her village. According to reports, she had been ordered into the bush by soldiers to look for her husband, Gilberto, an alleged Fretilin supporter. In a separate incident on 17 July 1989, three unarmed young men cutting wood outside the permitted timbering area near Ossu were reportedly killed by government forces. They were apparently accused of being Fretilin spies, tied together and shot. Their decaying bodies were discovered, still bound, three days later. In another case, **Francisco Magno**, a civilian, the son of Lormanu and Bemali, was reportedly shot dead by government soldiers in Leotelo, Nunumogue, on 13 August 1989.]

In late March 1990, four men from Lalerek-Mutin were reportedly tortured and one of them killed by security forces. **Candido Amaral** (39), a father of five, was arrested on 28 March and tortured by members of the security forces while being questioned about his alleged links to Fretilin. He was reportedly kicked, punched, and thrown to the ground until he became unconscious. When he was revived and still refused to confess, his captors reportedly burned his genitals with cigarettes. At dawn on 29 March Candido Amaral was taken to Tua-Metan and executed by firing squad. He was said to have been shot so many times that parts of his body disintegrated. Amnesty International understands that disciplinary action has been taken against the alleged perpetrators of the torture and killing of Candido Amaral and is seeking further information on the exact nature of the punishment. [At least three other people from Lalerek-Mutin -- **Joaquim Sarmento, Antero de Carvalho** and **Sebastiao dos Reis**-- are reported to have been detained and tortured in a similar manner to Candido Amaral, between 26 and 29 March 1990.]

[Last year Amnesty International presented evidence to this Committee about seven apparent extrajudicial executions, all of which were noted in the 23 January report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Summary or Arbitrary Executions. According to that report the Indonesian government provided information in December 1989 regarding two of the seven killings -- those of **Felix Ximenes** who was reportedly killed by members of the 315th Battalion on 11 June 1989, and of **Aleixo Ximenes**, who was reportedly killed on 23 March 1989 by a member of the 328th Battalion. The government claimed that both men were alive. Amnesty International welcomes the government's prompt response but notes that it is at variance with independent reports from non-governmental sources. Amnesty International regrets that as of January of this year the government had failed to provide any information regarding the alleged killing of **Carlos Mendes da Silva** and **Luiz da Cruz** by members of the 726th Battalion on 31 October 1988, despite the existence of several witnesses and the fact that the circumstances of the killings were comparatively well documented.]

Concluding Remarks

Mr Chairman, Amnesty International believes that there is a demonstrable pattern of short-term detention, torture and ill-treatment in East Timor which may serve, or be intended, to intimidate real or suspected political opponents of the government, including non-violent opponents. It believes that many of those detained, albeit briefly, for their alleged part in peaceful pro-independence demonstrations since October 1989 may have been, or continue to be, prisoners of conscience. It urges the Indonesian authorities to release promptly anyone held solely for their non-violent political activities or beliefs. It is concerned that in view

of the consistent and recurrent pattern of ill-treatment of political detainees in East Timor, those still in detention, and those arrested under similar circumstances in the near future, may be in serious danger of torture or ill-treatment.

Amnesty International believes that in accordance with international human rights standards, and in the interest of safeguarding against future violations, the Indonesian government has an obligation to investigate these and other allegations of serious human rights violations in East Timor, including extrajudicial executions, "disappearances" and torture committed by members of the security forces. Amnesty International urges the government to identify and bring to justice members of the security forces responsible for such violations. We ask that in the interest of demonstrating the fairness of future political trials in East Timor, they be made accessible to international observers. At a minimum we would hope that documents from political trials be made available to Amnesty International and other international organizations which may request them. We also urge the Indonesian government to disclose the names and place of detention of all people detained with or without charge in the name of "security" over the last two years, and to release or bring to trial fairly any accused of political offences.

It must be stated in closing that, in spite of repeated requests to the Indonesian authorities, Amnesty International has not yet been able to visit East Timor; this has not been for want of trying. In March 1989, after positive discussions with government representatives, we submitted to the government of Indonesia a proposal for an official visit to East Timor and Indonesia sometime later in 1989. To date we have received no reply to that letter. When we have reiterated our request, we have been told that the proposal is under consideration. We would urge the government to demonstrate its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights in East Timor by permitting international human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, to visit East Timor in an official capacity, and on a regular basis, in order to monitor the human rights situation there.

APPENDIX

East Timorese prisoners in Cipinang prison, Jakarta

Name	Sentence
David Dias Ximenes	15 years
Mariano Bonaparte Soares	16 years
Albino Lourdes	17 years
Domingos Seixas	12 years
Jose Roberto Jeronimo	12 years
Mario (Marito) Nicolau dos Reis	17 years

East Timorese prisoners in Bekora prison, Dili

Jil Fernandes	7 years
Aleixo Pereira Guterres	7 years
Luis Maria da Silva	10 years
Antonio Soares*	4 years
Lumberto Ximenes	9 years

* Due to be released in 1990.